

Message Text

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13

ACTION IO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8868

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4535

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA, AS

SUBJECT: KOREAN FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVE: UNCURK

1. MOFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTOR, HAN WOO SUK, CALLED EMBOFF TO HIS OFFICE JULY 13 TO DISCUSS UNCURK REPORT AND AUSTRALIAN DRAFT "CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS".

2. HAN SAID AUSTRALIANS HAD ALSO PASSED JAPANESE COPY OF THEIR DRAFT "CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS". JAPANESE HAVE EXPRESSED TO MOFA CONCERN THAT UNCURK MAY BE MOVING TOO QUICKLY. JAPANESE WISH TO AVOID ANY UNCURK RECOMMENDATION ON ITS OWN DISSOLUTION WHICH MIGHT BE PUBLICIZED BEFORE EARLY AUGUST MEETING ON UN STRATEGY WHICH THEY HAVE PROPOSED. ACCORDING HAN (STATE 132727), JAPANESE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE QUESTION OF HANDLING OF UNCURK TERMINATION SETTLED AND PUBLICIZED BEFORE UN STRATEGY DECIDED UPON. HAN STRESSED JAPANESE AGREED ON UNCURK TERMINATION BUT PROBLEM WAS PREMATURE DECISIONS AND DISCLOSURE ON HANDLING OF ISSUE. (MOFA REACTION TO LATEST APPARENT LEAK FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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JAPANESE SOURCES REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

3. HAN SAID MOFA SHARES JAPANESE CONCERN THAT UNCURK MIGHT BE MOVING TOO QUICKLY. SAID, IN ABSENCE CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S., MOFA HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO COMMISSION'S TERMINATION WITH UNCURK MEMBERS. HOWEVER, HAN BELIEVED THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS IN WHICH DISSOLUTION OF UNCURK COULD BE HANDLED AND THAT THESE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT UNGA STRATEGY. CONSEQUENTLY, HAN SAID HE IS WORRIED THAT AUSTRALIAN DRAFT MIGHT BE ACCEPTED BY UNCURK MEMBERS AND THUS PRECLUDE OTHER POSSIBLE OPTIONS.

4. IN DISCUSSING AUSTRALIAN DRAFT ON "CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS", HAN SAID PASSAGE CONTAINS NOTHING WHICH IN ITSELF IS OBJECTIONABLE. HOWEVER, SAID DRAFT IS "SO NEUTRAL" THAT IT DOES NOT REFER EVEN TO FACT THAT ROK ALONE HAS COOPERATED WITH THE COMMISSION DURING ITS EXISTENCE. FURTHER NOTED THAT DRAFT AS WRITTEN WOULD NOT BE VERY USEFUL IN SUPPORTING ROK POSITION IN ANY UNGA DEBATE.

4. HAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE WOULD INFORMALLY CAUTION AUSTRALIANS AND OTHER UNCURK MEMBERS TO PROCEED DELIBERATELY IN PREPARATION OF REPORT AS WELL AS SUGGEST THAT UNCURK RETAIN FLEXIBILITY ON CONTENT OF REPORT, METHOD OF UNCURK TERMINATION, AND TIMING OF SUBMISSION TO UNGA.

5. EMBOFF PROMISED TO REPORT HAN'S VIEWS. INDICATED THAT WE ALSO BELIEVE UNCURK SHOULD MOVE DELIBERATELY AND FLEXIBLY IN PREPARATION OF REPORT.
HABIB

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